

## Think Blue: Septic System Maintenance

### Septic System Maintenance

A septic system is an effective method for treating your household waste but they require proper care and maintenance. Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release bacteria and viruses that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby water bodies. This can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.

### Septic System Tips:

- Inspect your septic system every 1 - 3 years.
- Pump your tank as often as necessary (typically every 3 to 5 years).
- The average life expectancy for a septic system is 20 years. Consider replacing your system if it is approaching or over 20 years old.
- Avoid practices that might damage your septic tank and leach field, such as driving over it with a car or planting bushes and trees over top of it.
- Do not use drain cleaners or other toxic chemical products.
- Do not use additives of any kind to your septic system.
- Do not put cooking oil or grease down the drain.
- Do not overload your septic system with solids by using a garbage disposal unless the system was specifically designed for one.

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